



## Scoping Notice

# Gros Ventre Campground Rehabilitation

Environmental Assessment

July 2005

### Overview

The National Park Service is preparing an Environmental Assessment for proposed rehabilitation of the Gros Ventre Campground within Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming. The purpose of this Environmental Assessment is to analyze proposed improvements and address feasible alternatives. The preferred alternative identified will be developed as a plan to guide the rehabilitation of the Gros Ventre Campground for the next 15-20 years.

This notice seeks public comment on the scope of the analysis that will be conducted and input on issues and alternatives that should be considered, as well as any additional information, concerns or other comments about the proposal. The comment period is June 15 - July 31, 2005. Please use the attached form or visit the **National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC)** site to submit comments:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>

Be sure to indicate if you wish to remain on the mailing list for this project.

### Background

The National Park Service (NPS) seeks to rehabilitate the Gros Ventre Campground in Grand Teton National Park (GTNP). The Gros Ventre Campground (GVCG) is the largest of the five campgrounds in GTNP, with 379 sites, 14 restrooms, an RV dump station, an amphitheater, and a small NPS administrative area. The campground encompasses approximately 170 acres and is located in the southeastern part of the park bordering the National Elk Refuge, which lies to the south. The concessioner-operated GVCG is open from early-May through mid-October.

### Proposal

Proposed actions to be analyzed in the Gros Ventre Campground Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment (EA) include Americans with Disability Act (ADA) modifications; rehabilitation of the restrooms; upgrades and/or replacement of all utilities; installation of full utility hookups (electricity, water and sewer) at approximately 80 visitor sites; construction of one or two shower and laundry facilities; and other improvements as needed. One campground loop may be rehabilitated for seasonal RV housing for NPS employees, contractors, volunteers, and concession employees.

The decision resulting from the Gros Ventre Campground Rehabilitation EA will provide the framework for the

NPS and concessioner to conduct rehabilitation work aimed at improving the campground's services and facilities. Concessioner funding will assist the NPS in the implementation of the maintenance and infrastructure improvements.

### Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed action is to rehabilitate and upgrade the infrastructure at the GVCG to bring it up to an acceptable level of operation and maintenance from both a visitor use and operations standpoint. Additionally, the park desires to provide a wider variety of opportunities and services for visitors camping in GTNP while maintaining the overall character of the GVCG.

The project is needed to respond to a backlog of maintenance and infrastructure deficiencies and visitor facility needs at the GVCG. The existing water, septic, and electrical systems are over 40 years old and require renovation and upgrading. Currently, none of the campsites offer RV hookups; showers and laundry facilities are not provided; there are no campsites or restrooms with accessibility features; and portions of loops are located within flood prone areas. Other visitor services such as the campground amphitheater, picnic tables, and campfire rings are outdated and need rehabilitation or replacement.

## Public Participation

We want your comments!

Anyone interested in this planning effort is encouraged to visit the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/grte/plans/planning.htm>. This site will contain updates on project activities. Comments can be emailed from the PEPC Website, or you may return the attached comment form to:

**National Park Service  
Grand Teton National Park  
P.O. Drawer 170  
Moose, Wyoming 83012  
Attn: Planning Office**

## PEPC Website

Please visit the National Park Service Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) site. This site provides access to current National Park Service plans, environmental impact analyses, and related documents on public review. Users of the PEPC site may also submit comments online from the site.

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>

## Purpose and Need Continued...

The NPS needs RV camping sites for its seasonal employees, contractors, volunteers, and partners. The concessioner also needs housing for its employees who will be working at the GVCG for extended hours of visitor support. A portion of this housing need could be met by using less than 20% of campsites for housing of seasonal workers.

## Desired Future Condition

The primary objective is to rehabilitate the GVCG in a manner that provides a wider variety of visitor services while preserving the character of the campground and protecting natural resources.

## Preliminary Alternatives

An internal scoping workshop was conducted to discuss management objectives for the proposed action and identify issues and concerns. Alternatives have not been fully developed yet, but some preliminary alternatives were outlined and evaluated to determine whether they met the project purpose, need, and desired future conditions.

## No Action Alternative

The no action alternative, which is the baseline against which change is measured, would constitute the following: no additional administrative campsites (currently there are 10); no visitor RV hookup sites (currently there are none); an oversized and under used amphitheater; several loops containing campsites and leach fields rendered unusable due to early season flooding; and no restrooms within the campground that are ADA compliant. In all alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, infrastructure improvements will be required to meet to meet current standards.

## Preliminary Resource Considerations

Resource considerations identified to date include:

- Wildlife (including habitat)
- Vegetation
- Visitor Experience and Employee Experience
- Campground Operations and Maintenance
- Floodplains



## NEPA Process Timeline

The overall planning process is anticipated to extend over a period of approximately 14 months. Project milestones include:

Internal Scoping	March - April 2005
Public Scoping	July 2005
Alternative Development/Impact Analysis	July - August 2005
EA Preparation	September - December 2005
Public Review of EA	January 2006
Final Decision Document	March 2006

# Scoping Comment Form

## Gros Ventre Campground Rehabilitation Environmental Assessment

Please respond to the following questions and return this form by July 31, 2005. You may attach additional pages if needed. Also, include your name, mailing address and e-mail address (if applicable) in the space provided below. Thank you again for your interest in Grand Teton National Park.

Please be aware that names and addresses of respondents may be released if requested under the Freedom of Information Act. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during regular business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

### What issues would you like to see addressed?

[illegible]

**What alternatives or alternative management strategies would you like to see addressed?**

**Do you have additional information, concerns, or other comments about the proposal?**

Please give us your contact information if you would like to remain on the mailing list to receive additional information concerning this proposal.

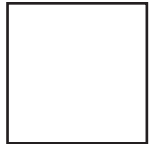
Name	
Street/PO Box	
City, State, Zip	
E-mail	

☐ Please remove my name from the mailing list.

**Grand Teton National Park**  
Gros Ventre Campground  
Rehabilitation EA  
**PO Drawer 170**  
**Moose, Wyoming 83012**

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Return Address:



Four horizontal dashed lines for return address information.

**Grand Teton National Park**  
Gros Ventre Campground Rehabilitation  
Environmental Assessment  
**PO Drawer 170**  
**Moose, Wyoming 83012**

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